

under ITEC programme of MEA signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

2. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation and assistance in the field of low housing signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997. An exhibition on low housing technology to be arranged in Trinidad & Tobago and transfer of technology in low cost housing.
3. Two Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation for the development of small scale industries in Trinidad & Tobago and provision of training to their personnel signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.
4. Trade agreement to consolidate, strengthen and diversify trade relations between the two countries on the basis of Most Favoured Nation treatment signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.
5. A Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries to review all aspects of bilateral relations and exchange views on international issues of mutual interest signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.
6. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of agricultural research and training of Trinidad & Tobago personnel at various agricultural institutes and deputation of experts to Trinidad & Tobago signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

#### BANGLADESH

1. An Indo-Bangladesh Treaty on Sharing of Ganga Waters was signed on December 12, 1996 which provides a detailed formula for sharing of the water flow during the lean season and more specifically between March 1 and May 10. The Treaty is for 30 years but with provision for mandatory reviews after five year intervals. Either side can also call for a review after two years.

#### SRI LANKA

1. An Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments was signed between the two countries during the Third Session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held in Colombo from January 19 to 22, 1997.
2. During the same Joint Commission Meeting, an Agreement was also signed to release the second tranche of US\$ 15 million of the line of credit extended to Sri Lanka earlier in January 1996. This credit would be available to Sri Lanka for import of both goods and services from India.
3. The two countries also signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998

and also a programme of cooperation in the field of science and technology during the Joint Commission Meeting.

[English]

#### Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal

343. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal had declared its award during 1979 covering all matters connected with the heights of major dams; Narmada Sagar, Sardar Sarovar etc. has been reopened by the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the present situation in regard to the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam in Gujarat; and

(c) the stipulated height and upto which height, the construction has been completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994 filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has been mentioned as one of the issues for consideration.

(b) and (c) At present, the lowest block level upto which the Sardar Sarovar Dam has been raised is EL 81.5 metres against the stipulated full reservoir level of 138.68 metres as per the Award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal.

#### Passport Office, Bangalore

344. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Passport Office at Bangalore as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the number of passports issued during the last three years and as on December 31, 1996;

(c) whether the said office has sufficient staff to clear the workload; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to depute sufficient number of employees in the Passport Office at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) 6,600 Passport applications were pending with the Passport Office at Bangalore on December 31, 1996. Of these, 703 were pending for more than one month.

(b) The number of passports issued by the Passport Office in Bangalore during the last three years is as follows :

1994	1995	1996
77646	95672	105905

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Alleged Irregularities by Indian Missions Abroad**

345. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of lapses in the maintenance of accounts by Indian Missions abroad have come to the notice of Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to check misuse of funds by the Indian Missions abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) Accounts are prepared in our Missions abroad in accordance with laid down rules and regulations and every care is taken to ensure their compliance. These are regularly sent to the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, in the form of a cash account every month. Any discrepancy noticed is rectified in the accounts of the following months. These accounts are subject to post-audit in the office of Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs and are also audited by Statutory Audit.

[Translation]

#### **Construction and Expansion of Ports**

346. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made at Central level during the last three years for the construction of new ports and expansion of the existing ports;

(b) the names of such ports and works undertaken in Gujarat in this regard; and

(c) the role of Union Government in case the State Government fails to execute its duties and the efforts made by the Union Government during the last three years in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) During the last three years, no new port has been constructed by the Central Government. However, Ennore, a satellite port of Chennai is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 593.90 crores. The capacity of

existing Major Ports has been increased by 7.83 million tonnes during the last three years.

(b) and (c) In Gujarat, Kandla Port Trust is the only Major port developed by the Central Government. The major schemes taken up at Kandla Port during the last three years are—construction of 3rd Oil Jetty, 4th Oil Jetty, 7th General Cargo Berth, 8th Cargo Berth, 2 Nos. Virtual Jetties and a captive jetty by IFFCO. The responsibility for development of Minor Ports rests with the State Governments.

#### **Construction of Bridge on Yamuna**

347. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent so far for the construction of parallel bridge on Yamuna river near I.T.O. in Delhi;

(b) the date on which the construction work of this bridge had commenced and the date by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of this bridge;

(d) whether cost of the construction of this bridge has increased many-fold; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for early completion of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : The Government of India is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country and all other roads are essentially the responsibility of concerned State Govts. Construction of parallel bridge across Yamuna river near I.T.O. in Delhi falls within the purview of the Govt. of N.C.T.D.

(a) Rs. 26.50 crores.

(b) Work commenced in December, 1992 and is targetted to be completed by June, 1997.

(c) Main reason for delay in completion were problems relating to removal of encroachments, site problems and technical difficulties encountered during execution and change in scope and design for accommodating water supply pipeline on the bridge.

(d) and (e) The sanctioned cost of the bridge project is Rs. 25.78 crore and likely cost of completion is about Rs. 40 crore. Progress is being closely monitored to ensure completion by the target date.

#### **Visit of Sri Lanka by Foreign Minister**

348. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :  
SHRI A.C. JOS :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :